MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Muruvelil Pachu Pillai has put a statement into my hands asking for leave of the Council to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the serious and anxious situation created by the heavy and untimely rains and floods in the State. I think that the motion is admissible; and I put it to the Council whether the member has the leave of the Council to make the motion.

As nobody objects to it, I take it that the member has the leave of the House to make the motion.

The motion will be taken up for discussion at 3-30 P.M. on Monday next.

POINT OF ORDER *re* STANDING ORDER No. 9.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, with reference to the point of order which I submitted.....

PRESIDENT: It does not arise now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But I am entitled to submit a point of order, for the decision of the Chair, at any time. And no ruling has been given on the point of order.

PRESIDENT: You want a ruling on that point?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Yes. In Standing Order No. 9 it is definitely stated that the first hour of every day's meeting shall be made available for 'Questions and Answers'. So, that time cannot be taken up for any other business except the swearing in of new members which has been definitely provided for. So, my submission is, that the Financial Secretary cannot take up the question time of the House for reading 'Statements laid on the table'.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Apparently, what Mr. Asan means is that, although in the Statement of business the item 'Statement laid on the table' has been put after the item 'Questions and Answers', the President called upon the Financial Secretary to read the 'Statement laid on the table'. My submission is that the President was with in his rights in changing the order of business given in the agenda. And the House has not at all been prejudiced by that. It seems to me, Sir, to be a very trivial matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Can the President call the Financial Secretary to read the 'Statement laid on the table', against Standing Order No. 9?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The House has not in any way been prejudiced by that.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Was there any necessity to suspend the rule?

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The rule was not suspended. If the House has been prejudiced in any way, then I can understand the objection. The first hour was available for questions and answers. The entire time has not been used up at all.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether the President has used his discretion ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The President called the Financial Secretary to read the Statement laid on the table ; and I do not see why it should be objected to very seriously when the question time has not been prejudicially affected at all.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Suppose the President called the Financial Secretary to read a long statement that has been laid on the table ; and the reading takes over 45 minutes. Does it mean that the question time could be taken away by the Financial Secretary in reading such a statement, though he might do it under orders of the President ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is a hypothetical question which does not arise at all in the present instance.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I want a ruling with reference to Standing Order No. 9, as to whether any such thing could be done, during question time before 'Questions and Answers.'

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is left to the President. I may say that the usual practice is to make all announcements, of Statements laid on the table, after Questions and Answers. But that does not mean that anything out of order has been committed to-day ; because the first hour *has been* available for Questions and Answers, and not even half of that time has been used up by the House for that purpose.

PRESIDENT: I rule that the procedure that was adopted today was in order under the circumstances. I can understand Mr. Asan's objection if there were questions yet to be answered which were likely to take more than the one hour allowed. If there were such questions, perhaps, I should have allowed additional time for such questions. As no such contingency has arisen, it seems to me that the point that has been raised is not of any importance ; and so it cannot be said that there was anything out of order in the Financial Secretary's reading of the statement that he was called upon *by the President* to lay on the table.

The Financial Secretary will now present the Budget for 1105 to the Council.

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